



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

May 2005

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES KENOSHA, RACINE AND WALWORTH COUNTIES

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES COME DOWN; NUMBER OF JOBS INCREASE IN APRIL

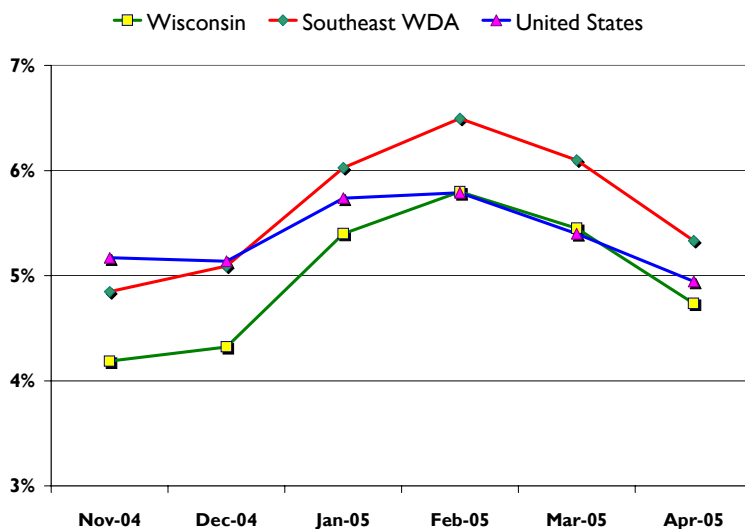
April's unemployment rate in **Kenosha County** was 5.6 percent decreasing seven-tenths of a percentage point, monthly. From an annual standpoint, the county's current labor force shows over 600 more employed residents and 150 fewer unemployed, thus its unemployment rate is two-tenths of a percentage point lower compared to April 2004. Kenosha was

the only regional county to demonstrate annual labor force growth as of April.

The estimated number of jobs in Kenosha County via the nonfarm wage and salary survey totaled 55,700 jobs in April. April's job total equaled 500 more than March's. Industry sectors' employment levels were either unchanged

over the month or they experienced slight increases. None of the sectors showed a measurable decrease in employment. The most significant gain was in the combined sectors of information, professional, business, and other services with 200 more jobs, monthly. Government also gained 200 jobs. Gains of 100 jobs each were tallied in construction and total trade. The latter increases were seasonal in nature.

Six-Month Unemployment Rate Watch



Annually, Kenosha County has 100 fewer jobs, overall, than it had in April 2004. The heart of this annual loss was found in two sectors: manufacturing (-600 jobs) and government (-300 jobs). Other sectors showed more employment bounce with the largest annual gain, 300 jobs, in information, professional, business, and other services. Leisure and hospitality and total trade sectors each posted gains of 200 jobs.

Walworth County's unemployment rate in April was 4.0 percent. This is considerably lower than March's final rate of 4.9 percent. The county's current rate is lower

Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin Counties: April 2005

	Wisconsin			Kenosha County			Racine County		
	Apr-05	Mar-05	Apr-04	Apr-05	Mar-05	Apr-04	Apr-05	Mar-05	Apr-04
Labor force	3,032,586	3,027,271	3,046,015	82,111	81,692	81,651	98,340	98,404	100,049
Employed	2,888,939	2,862,244	2,887,944	77,509	76,513	76,899	92,586	91,932	93,620
Unemployed	143,647	165,027	158,071	4,602	5,179	4,752	5,754	6,472	6,429
% Unemployed	4.7%	5.5%	5.2%	5.6%	6.3%	5.8%	5.9%	6.6%	6.4%
	Walworth County			Southeast WDA			United States		
	Apr-05	Mar-05	Apr-04	Apr-05	Mar-05	Apr-04	Apr-05	Mar-05	Apr-04
Labor force	55,439	55,061	55,725	235,890	235,157	237,425	148,274,000	147,745,000	146,260,000
Employed	53,218	52,368	53,224	223,313	220,813	223,743	140,939,000	139,759,000	138,423,000
Unemployed	2,221	2,693	2,501	12,577	14,344	13,682	7,335,000	7,986,000	7,837,000
% Unemployed	4.0%	4.9%	4.5%	5.3%	6.1%	5.8%	4.9%	5.4%	5.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and current month's data are preliminary

Industry Employment Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin - April 2005

	Wisconsin			Kenosha County			Racine County			Walworth County			Southeast WDA		
Employment in 1,000's	Change since April 2005	Change since Mar. 2005	Change since April 2004	Change since April 2005	Change since Mar. 2005	Change since April 2004	Change since April 2005	Change since Mar. 2005	Change since April 2004	Change since April 2005	Change since Mar. 2005	Change since April 2004	Change since April 2005	Change since Mar. 2005	Change since April 2004
	April 2005	Mar. 2005	April 2004	April 2005	Mar. 2005	April 2004	April 2005	Mar. 2005	April 2004	April 2005	Mar. 2005	April 2004	April 2005	Mar. 2005	April 2004
All Industries	2,810.3	34.2	26.6	55.7	0.5	-0.1	79.0	0.6	-0.3	42.8	0.8	0.3	177.5	2.0	-0.1
Construction/Natural Resources	130.3	11.8	4.4	2.2	0.1	0.0	4.0	0.4	0.1	1.9	0.3	-0.1	8.2	0.8	0.0
Manufacturing	499.4	-1.5	2.1	9.7	0.0	-0.6	18.8	-0.1	-0.3	9.2	0.0	0.1	37.7	-0.1	-0.9
Total Trade	427.3	5.3	3.8	8.8	0.1	0.2	12.7	0.0	-0.4	5.6	0.1	0.1	27.0	0.2	-0.1
Retail Trade	311.2	3.5	0.6	xx	xx	xx	9.2	0.0	-0.5	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Wholesale Trade	116.1	1.8	3.2	xx	xx	xx	3.5	0.0	0.1	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Transport/Warehouse/Utilities	108.3	2.3	2.4	1.7	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	4.8	0.0	0.1
Financial Activities	157.7	0.3	0.1	1.7	0.0	0.1	2.6	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	5.4	0.0	0.1
Education and Health Services	382.9	-1.1	8.1	8.6	0.0	0.0	10.4	0.0	0.0	4.5	0.0	0.2	23.5	0.1	0.2
Leisure and Hospitality	246.8	10.2	4.2	6.6	0.0	0.2	6.5	0.2	-0.1	6.5	0.2	-0.1	19.6	0.4	0.0
Info./Prof./Bus. and Other Services	435.0	6.3	1.6	7.1	0.2	0.3	11.7	0.0	0.2	5.2	0.3	0.1	24.0	0.4	0.6
Information	50.6	-0.3	0.9	xx	xx	xx	0.6	0.0	0.0	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Professional and Business Services	249.6	7.0	0.3	xx	xx	xx	6.5	0.1	0.3	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Other Services	134.8	-0.4	0.4	xx	xx	xx	4.6	-0.1	-0.1	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Fed/State/Local Government	422.6	0.6	-0.1	9.2	0.2	-0.3	10.3	0.1	0.1	7.7	0.0	0.1	27.2	0.3	0.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Current Employment Statistics. Figures are rounded and may not sum to total. Current month's figures are preliminary

than last April's by five-tenths of a percentage point. Walworth's labor force is smaller on an annual basis as its labor force has approximately 300 fewer total participants; more specifically, 300 fewer unemployed residents.

Walworth's industry employment was estimated at 42,800 total nonfarm jobs in April. April's total jobs number represented a net increase of 800 jobs, monthly, which was an expected, seasonal gain. The largest employment gains were measured in construction employment and in information, professional, business, and other services each gaining 300 jobs since March. The fastest monthly job gains usually begin in April and the next couple months should also show large gains as well. Despite being the smallest regional county by its job count, Walworth's job gains will likely lead the region in both numeric and percentage terms in some of these spring months.

Walworth's total industry employment, annually, shows net growth of 300 jobs; same as March. Walworth was the only regional county this month to show overall job growth, annually. Education and health services lead this growth with 200 more jobs compared to last April. Leisure and

hospitality and construction employment showed job declines of 100 jobs each. There were slight job gains in a few other industry sectors while a couple others remained unchanged. Noteworthy is the fact that leisure and hospitality employment is 100 jobs less than in April 2004. This sector has been a bit flat in Walworth so far in 2005 and is significant to the local economy.

The **Racine MSA** unemployment rate in April was 5.9 percent, which is lower monthly and annually by seven-tenths and five-tenths of a percentage point, respectively. The county's labor force, from an annual perspective, has remained approximately 1,700 participants less compared to its level from one year ago with over 1,000 fewer employed and almost 700 fewer unemployed residents compared to April 2004.

April's total industry employment in Racine County stood at 79,000 jobs in March representing a monthly net increase of 600 jobs. April's increase has been the county's largest monthly gain to date in 2005. Construction employment, which gained 400 jobs, represented the majority of the county's gain, while leisure and hospitality

and government employment also posted job increases. Manufacturing employment decreased by 100 jobs over the month.

Racine's annual job total is 300 jobs short compared to April 2004. This net loss was comprised of significant decreases in retail trade employment (-500 jobs) and manufacturing employment (-300 jobs). Leisure and hospitality employed 100 fewer workers compared to last April. But there were some annual employment gains to offset these decreases. Professional and business services employment is 300 jobs higher. Total government employment and the transportation, warehousing and utilities sector employment each gained 100 jobs. Wholesale trade also gained 100 jobs.

Direct questions and comments to:

Eric Grosso, State Labor Economist

201 East Washington Avenue

Room A400

Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Phone: 608.266.7034

e-mail: eric.grosso@dwd.state.wi.us

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